

Dated: August 22, 2001.

**Robert E. Feldman,**

*Executive Secretary.*

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## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Open Meeting, Advisory Committee (Expert Panel on Cost Estimating) for the Public Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency  
Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C. App.), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

*Name:* Advisory Committee (Expert Panel on Cost Estimating) for the Public Assistance Program.

*Date of Meeting:* September 26-27, 2001.

*Place:* Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Monet IV Conference Room, Washington, DC 20042.

*Time:* September 26: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; September 27: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

*Proposed Agenda:* The Panel will compare and contrast the Cost Estimating Format for Large Projects developed by FEMA with estimating methods used by the American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE). Discussion will also be held regarding the Panel's official endorsement of a cost estimating methodology and in determining the level of technical expertise and training guidance required for uniformly applying it. The Panel will also consider a proposed update to Engineering and Design Services curves (A and B).

The meeting will be open to the public, with seats available on a first-come, first-served basis. All members of the public interested in attending should contact James D. Duffer, at 202-646-3532.

Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and available for public viewing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Recovery Division, Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate, 500 C Street, SW, Washington DC 20472 and posted on FEMA's Web Page located at <http://www.fema.gov/r-n-r/pa/process>. Copies

of the meeting minutes will be available upon request 90 days after the meeting.

**Robert J. Adamcik,**

*Deputy Assistant Director, Readiness,  
Response & Recovery Directorate.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the proposed information collection project: 2001-2003 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC). In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act as amended (see in particular 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by October 29, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: Cynthia D. McMichael, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20852-4908.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia D. McMichael, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-3132.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Proposed Project

2001-2003 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC).

The MEPS-IC, an annual survey of the characteristics of employer-sponsored health insurance, was first conducted by AHRQ in 1997 for the calendar year 1996. The survey has since been conducted annually for calendar years 1997 through 2000. AHRQ proposes to continue this annual survey of establishments for calendar years 2001 through 2003. The survey date for calendar year 2001 will be

collected in 2002. Likewise, calendar year 2002 data will be collected in 2003 and calendar year 2003 data in 2004. The survey will collect information from both public and private employers. This survey will be conducted for AHRQ by the Bureau of the Census using a sample comprised of:

1. Employers selected from Census Bureau lists of private sector employers and governments (known as the List Sample), and

2. Employers identified by respondents to the MEPS-Household Component (MEPS-HC) for the same calendar year (known as the Household Sample).

The MEPS-HC is an annual household survey designed to collect information concerning health care expenditures and related data for individuals. The size of the Household sample varies from year to year with the size of the MEPS-HC.

Data to be collected from each employer will include a description of the business (e.g., size, industry) and descriptions of health insurance plans available, plan enrollments, total plan costs and costs to employees.

#### Data Confidentiality Provisions

The MEPS-IC List Sample data confidentiality is protected under Section 9 of Title 13, United States Code (the U.S. Census Bureau statute) as well as section 924(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299c-3(c)). The MEPS-IC Household Sample data confidentiality is protected under Sections 308(d) and 924(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m and 42 U.S.C. 299c-3(c)).

Section 308(d) is the confidentiality statute of the National Center for Health Statistics, is applicable because the MEPS-HC sample is derived from respondents of an earlier NCHS survey.

Section 924(c) is the confidentiality statute of AHRQ. All data products listed below must fully comply with the data confidentiality statute under which their raw data was collected.

#### Data Products

Data will be produced in three forms: (1) Files derived from the Household Sample, which can be linked back to other information from household respondents in the MEPS-HC, will be available to researchers at the AHRQ Research Data Center; (2) files containing employer information from the List Sample will be available for use by researchers at the Census Bureau's Research Data Centers; and (3) a large compendium of tables of estimates, also based on List Sample data, will be produced and made available on the